

REMARKS

In the Office Action,¹ the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-13, 15, 17-20, 22-31, 43-45, and 48-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,739,510 to Jeffers et al. ("*Jeffers*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,230,990 to Lert, Jr. et al. ("*Lert*"); rejected claims 10, 42, 146, and 147 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeffers* in view of *Lert* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,480 to Beuk et al. ("*Beuk*"); rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeffers* in view of *Lert* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,777,997 to Kahn et al. ("*Kahn*"); rejected claims 148 and 149 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jeffers* in view of *Beuk*; objected to claim 21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim; and allowed claims 58-60, 62-103, and 105-145.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and the objection listed above. However, to further prosecution, Applicants cancel rejected claims 1-13, 15, 17-20, 22-45, 48-57, and 146-149; and objected to claim 21, without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely issuance of Notice of Allowance.


¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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